

## **50 & Forward**

### **Request for Community Outreach Funds**

In July, 2015, as we reached our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation, individuals and families at Fern Creek Christian committed to make over-and-above gifts to help our congregation move forward into our 51<sup>st</sup> year – and beyond. A part of this giving was earmarked for building upgrades, some for debt reduction, and some for community outreach.

Of the money designated for community outreach, we are making some of it available to show Jesus' love in real-life, practical ways through our life groups, ministry groups, and families. We encourage your group to consider needs of people around you – at work, home, school, or where you serve – and if there is a need that can be met through financial means, we are making some of the 50 & Forward funds available for those needs.

The guidelines for use of this money are as follows:

1. The community outreach funds are meant to be used to meet needs of folks in our community who are not an active part of a church family and who need to experience Jesus' love in tangible ways.
2. 50 & Forward funds are intended to serve as a *match of funds* to the group asking for them. This enables us to double our impact, while also asking the group to have ownership of the need it is seeking to address.

Examples of the type of request you might make:

- A neighbor is a single mom who is raising 2 kids on her own. Her hot water heater goes out. Your group decides to install a new one, contributing some of the cost of the new water heater, and requesting matching 50 & Forward funds.
- A member of your life group teaches in a local public school. She consistently learns of needs of some of her at-risk children. Your group decides to help with some of these needs, and asks for 50 & Forward funds to support your contributions and your service.

To request 50 & Forward funds, please provide the following information. When completed, please return the form to the Information Desk:

1. *Your name & contact info:*
  
2. *Name of your life group/ministry group (if applicable):*
  
3. *Briefly state a description of the need, along with how you/your group is connected with this need:*
  
4. *What contribution are you/your group providing to meet this need? (Please note: We don't intend the 'match of funds' to be a barrier to ministry and relationship-building. We do hope it encourages long-term outreach and generosity of this kind. If the match prevents your outreach, please describe the level of involvement you will provide.)*
  
5. *How much are you requesting from 50 & Forward funds to meet this need?*

## 50 & Forward Community Outreach

As we seek to be thoughtful and wise managers of God's resources provided through the FCCC 50 & Forward Campaign, the following framework helps to guide our thinking and giving as we seek to care for our neighbors in need. We want to become a community that grows in our love for God and people by sharing our money, by faith, with people who are struggling with financial need locally.

*"In everything I did, I showed you that we must work hard and help the weak. We must remember the words of the Lord Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35*

### FRAMEWORK

- We believe that everything we have comes from and belongs to God (Job 1:21).
- We seek to learn ways to live simple, generous, joyful, compassionate and sacrificial lives together.
- We desire to extend ourselves in practical expressions of loving relationship with people who are in need.
- We desire to give in way that does not increase our power over another person.
- We desire to give in a way that affirms the person and builds the relationship (for example, visiting them or writing a card).
- We commit to discuss ways to share resources prayerfully with our Life Group or giving group.
- We commit to teach and model how to share our resources with those in our community who have less experience in it.

### WE VALUE:

- *Compassion* for people in need and knowledge of their specific needs
- *Awareness* of what individuals and organizations are doing in the US and around the world and how we can play a role in their development as they are on the front lines of helping people.
- *Leadership* development as verbal proposals are presented to the others in our Life Group and with others as needed.
- *Spiritual growth* as we practice prayer, discernment, discretion, wisdom and insight.
- *Submission* to each other in *community* as group members collaborate to share / suggest needs, complete this form, interact with the Outreach Team, etc.
- Growing in *faith* as we learn to say yes and no to the needs with which we will be confronted.
- Over time, growing in *relationship* with the people with whom we share resources.